



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 19, 2009

Ms. Patricia Sullivan, Project Manager
Federal Aviation Administration
Airports Division – Alaskan Region
222 W. 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504

Subject: **Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport, in Sitka, AK**
EPA Project Number: 02-085-DOT

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10, has completed our review of the **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport**, in Sitka, Alaska (CEQ No. 20090167) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

While EPA expressed support for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) preferred alternative for each project proposed in the draft EIS, we did identify concerns we had regarding potential impacts to subsistence users, stormwater management, disclosure of total cost for each alternative, and compliance with the Final Mitigation Rule. We believe that the FEIS clearly and adequately addresses our concerns, and provides the information needed to fully inform the public concerning these issues. EPA is particularly pleased with the FAA's commitment to provide funding for the evaluation of airport-wide stormwater management and to identify actions to minimize runoff and improve discharge quality. We also appreciate the commitment FAA has made to the Sitka Tribe to address and mitigate impacts to subsistence users, as well as other tribal concerns.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Sitka Airport FEIS. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324 or via email at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediments
Management Unit